

RELIGIOUS FAITH OF OLDER ADULTS IN THEIR LIFE PERSPECTIVE

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Abstract

Purpose is to reveal the religious faith of older people in their lives.

Methodology is a qualitative study that has involved seven older people. Data was collected in qualitative semi-structured interviews using *Faith Development Interview* (Streib & Keller, 2015), questions about sociodemographic characteristics of participants, observation and diary of the researcher. It was analyzed by narrative analysis (Braun & Clarke, 2006).

Findings. The origins of religious faith were formed in childhood, but had different tendencies of expression in the course of life; a stable or wavy religious faith, manifested as hidden or discovered.

Research limitations / implications are the low number of participants. For this reason, the results of the study cannot be summarized for a larger population of the elderly, but provide insights for further research. It is expedient to conduct longitudinal studies that reveal how religious faith develops in the course of life.

Practical implications. A valuable specialist in various fields working with these individuals in the institutions of social services, long-term care, and education, in associations for senior people and alliances. The findings of the study are adapted and integrated into consulting, psychotherapy and psychosocial and spiritual interventions of the elderly.

Originality. The presented perspectives of elderly people reflect the culture of Eastern Europe and Lithuania, where in the context of historical events and Catholic tradition were the older persons and their religious faith have formed. There is a lack of such religious faith in historical and cultural environment of Lithuania.

Keywords: religious faith, elderly, life course

Research type: case study